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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
1230 Hrs., 18 March 1953

BURMA ASKS TERMINATION OF AMERICAN AID PROGRAM

The Burmese Foreign Minister handed Ambassador Sebald in Rangoon a note on 17 March asking termination of American aid after 30 June 1953, until such time as the Chinese Nationalist problem was completely settled.

The Foreign Minister stated that Burma's intention was to marshal all possible forces against the Nationalists and also to raise the matter aggressively in the UN. The Government believed that the continued receipt of American aid during this "painful process" might be embarrassing to the United States and might be misunderstood by other countries.

Both the formal letter and the Foreign Minister's remarks were couched in friendly terms and the latter confirmed that the aid program would of course not be affected if the Nationalist troop problem were solved. [redacted] 25X1

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It confirms previous indications that Burma is determined to apply all pressures at its disposal to bring about a solution of the Nationalist problem. While this particular action does not seriously affect American-Burmese relations, continued failure to solve the Nationalist problem may result in significant impairment.

State Department review completed

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